

10/779,892

Application Serial No. TBA
Docket No. 40500.0117
Preliminary Amendment dated February 7, 2004

In the Specification

Please replace paragraph [0001] with the following re-written paragraph:

This application claims priority to, and the benefit of, U.S. Serial No. 10/272,773 filed on October 17, 2002 by Kishore Tipirneni, M.D. with the same title, which itself claims priority to U.S. Provisional Application serial number 60/330,187, entitled "LAGWIRE SYSTEM AND METHOD" filed October 18, 2001, which is incorporated herein by reference.

31 KW 8/13/09
Please replace paragraph [0032] with the following re-written paragraph:

31 KW 8/13/09
[0032] A tensioner 50 may also be used in conjunction with the present invention. With respect to Figure 3, the tensioner 50 is any device suitably configured to insert a cap 20 into an object and/or provide tension to a wire 12. In one embodiment, tensioner 50 increases the pressure between the surfaces of pathology by providing tension to a wire 12 while the head component 2 of wire 12 is fixed into a bone or far cortex. In an exemplary embodiment, tensioner 50 includes a handle 52 with a hand trigger 54, wherein the handle 52 supports a rotatable barrel 56 which mates with a cylindrical rod 58. Cylindrical rod 58 may be cannulated to receive wire 12 and/or have a driver 60 (e.g., hex, phillips, screw, allen and/or the like) at its distal end for mating with the tool attachment 10 of head component 2. The barrel 56 may be rotated manually or automatically in order to rotate the driver 60 into the object (e.g., bone or cortex). In one embodiment, tensioner 50 includes a means for exerting a force on wire 12, such as, for example, internal gears 64, wherein the gears 64 include an interface component 66 (e.g., saw tooth) which mate with the inverse sawtooth 20 on wire 12. By pivoting the hand trigger 54, the internal gears are rotated such that the gears cause wire 12 to translate out the back end 62 of the tensioner 50, thereby exerting tension on wire 12 which is fixed at its distal end. The tensioner 50 may also include a gauge type device or any other device which is suitably configured to measure and/or display the tension exerted on wire 12.